

PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARCH 17, 2015  
@ 9:00 A.M.

The regular meeting of the Martin County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Steve Flohrs.

Commissioners present were Tom Mahoney, Dan Schmidtke, Elliot Belgard, and Steve Flohrs. Commissioner Donnelly was absent. Also present were Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, James Forshee, Martin County Auditor/Treasurer, Rod Halvorsen, KSUM/KFMC Radio, Jodelle Greiner, Sentinel Newspaper, Julie Walters, Administrative Assistant, and members of staff and public.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Mahoney, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the agenda for the March 17, 2015 regular Board of Commissioners meeting with the following addition: 8.7 Consider Out of State Travel Request for County Assessor. Carried unanimously.

Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, presented the Board Chair with a proclamation designating the month of April 2015 as National County Government Month.

Chairman Flohrs read aloud the proclamation designating the month of April 2015 as National County Government Month.

R-#14/'15

MARTIN COUNTY PROCLAMATION FOR  
NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH – APRIL 2015

WHEREAS, the nation's 3,069 counties serving more than 300 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe, vibrant and economically resilient communities; and

WHEREAS, counties move America forward by building infrastructure, maintaining roads and bridges, providing health care, administering justice, keeping communities safe, running elections, managing solid waste, keeping records and much more; and

WHEREAS, Martin County, MN, and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, in order to remain healthy, vibrant, safe, and economically competitive, America's counties provide transportation and infrastructure services that play a key role in everything from residents' daily commutes to shipping goods around the world; and

WHEREAS, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties encourages counties across the country to actively promote their own programs and services to the public they serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Steve Flohrs, Board Chair, do hereby proclaim April 2015 as National County Government Month and encourage all county officials, employees, schools, and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

Motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Mahoney, resolution proclaiming National County Government Month – April 2015 duly passed and adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2015.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

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Steve Flohrs, Board Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator

Motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Mahoney, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize Board Chair to sign Proclamation designating April 2015 as National County Government Month. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the minutes of the March 3, 2015 regular Board of Commissioners meeting. Carried unanimously.

James Forshee, Martin County Auditor/Treasurer, noted the Auditor/Treasurer's Office has received the application and other required paperwork from Fox Lake Golf Club, Inc. for renewal of its Liquor, Wine, Club or 3.2% License (On-Sale and Off-Sale); and Consumption & Display Permit (Set-up License).

Motion by Commissioner Mahoney, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the renewal of Liquor, Wine, Club or 3.2% License (On-Sale and Off-Sale) effective April 6, 2015 through April 5, 2016; and Consumption & Display Permit (Set-up License) for Fox Lake Golf Club, Inc. effective March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2016. Carried unanimously.

Forshee noted the Auditor/Treasurer's Office has received the application and other required paperwork from Boom Town Tavern, LLC a/k/a Ghost Town Tavern for renewal of its Consumption & Display Permit.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Mahoney, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the renewal of Consumption & Display Permit (Set-up License) for Boom Town Tavern, LLC – a/k/a Ghost Town Tavern located at 1203 260<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Granada, MN, effective April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016. Carried unanimously.

Higgins noted two (2) replacements are needed (District #1 & At-Large) to serve on the Martin County Parks/Trail Committee; and two (2) additional members are needed to serve on the new Personnel Board of Appeals.

Commissioner Mahoney noted he spoke with Wendy Emler about the Martin County Parks/Trail Committee At-Large position and Emler will get back with him.

Commissioner Belgard noted he will speak with Monte Rohman for potential Martin County Parks/Trail Committee members from District #1.

Kevin Peyman, Highway Engineer, noted he will be meeting with the Leadership Martin County group next month and will see if anyone is interested in serving on the Martin County Parks/Trail Committee.

No action taken on (re)appointments to the Martin County Parks/Trail Committee or Personnel Board of Appeals.

Ron Morris, Mayor – City of Ceylon, was present to open discussion regarding issues and concerns in the City of Ceylon including real estate taxes; law enforcement; and forfeited land/properties/abandoned houses.

Morris noted when the County changed the rural service district the City of Ceylon is going to lose a lot of tax dollars in the long run and we are hanging on by a thread. The real estate taxes that we're charging our people or that our people get assessed are getting out of hand. A lot of them are saying we're not paying them...we can't afford to pay that kind of money for what our property is worth. This situation is just going to keep getting worse.

Morris also noted the City of Ceylon looked at getting some police protection only to find out the cost for that protection is not in their budget. The Martin County Sheriff's Office has been helping out as much as they can but their department is shorthanded too. With suspected illegal activity going on in the City of Ceylon we need some help and ask that the County put on another deputy or something so we've got more people here to help us out. We're going to have to work together to get something done. The suspected activity going on in the City of Ceylon is a County problem and not a town problem. These people know they can go to these little towns and get by with things because the small towns don't have the law enforcement like the bigger towns do.

Chairman Flohrs noted this has been brought up to us before and the local pride of all of these small towns has stepped in the way of the County coming in and taking over all of the police work. If the County does come in how is the County going to pay for it? Are we going to raise the taxes on the whole County so that we can send in deputies to the City of Ceylon?

Commissioner Belgard inquired if the City of Ceylon currently pays a fee for law enforcement.

Commissioner Schmidtke noted no, that quit about six years ago.

Commissioner Mahoney inquired what kind of enforcement the City of Ceylon has had the last couple of years. Nothing?

Morris noted the Sheriff's Office deputies have helped out if we've had something going on.

Commissioner Belgard inquired if the City of Ceylon has approached the Sherburn/Welcome Police Department.

Morris noted we've approached several different avenues and they don't want to take on any more with what they've already got.

Corey Klanderud, Chief Deputy-Martin County Sheriff's Office, noted the challenge with all of these small communities is that we have to treat all residents the same. We can't just dedicate extra time for certain communities...we have to balance everything for the entire county. We've looked at contracting enforcement for a couple hours a week but unless we can meet on the dollars our hands are tied. To dedicate time to just police a certain city...we'd have to do that for every community and as mentioned how do we tax everybody for the one community's extra service. It is definitely a challenge. When there isn't law enforcement present for the routine stuff...that's where the people that like to break laws tend to hang out.

Much discussion ensued regarding law enforcement coverage in the City of Ceylon.

After discussion,

Consensus of the Board is to have the Martin County Coordinator set up a meeting with County and city officials to discuss this situation and figure out what can be done to help.

Morris continued the other issue we have is the abandoned properties...when the properties go on the Sheriff's auction and don't get bought...who is going to pay to get rid of these houses? We've got a few in Ceylon and we can't afford to get rid of them. For an example the house that stood to the north of me went to Sheriff's auction and a guy bought it for \$1,000...didn't pay the assessments...he went and took out a loan for \$8,000 or \$10,000 and took the money and run. Now that house has been sitting there empty with absolutely no one around for over three years again. When these properties/houses come up for auction we'd like the adjacent property owners to be notified to work out a deal with them to buy it.

Forshee noted the County does have monies set aside in a Forfeited Land Fund. Demolition costs would be negotiated with cities willing to help with demolition costs. Forshee also noted there are a number of properties in the City of Ceylon that will be coming up again this year for forfeiture. Forshee went on to note adjacent property owners of forfeited property are notified and receive a letter when the property comes up for sale.

Ashley Brenke, Technician-Martin SWCD, presented for consideration service agreements to administer the Martin County Water Plan Program in the amount of \$23,242 (CY2014-\$23,242) noting the amount is derived from the 2015 allocation from the Natural Resources Block Grant Agreement (NRBG) funds with \$13,697 in grant dollars and \$9,545 County cash match; and the

proposed service agreement authorizing the administration of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) in the amount of \$17,556 with \$8,778 grant funding (NRBG) and \$8,778 County cash match.

Motion by Commissioner Mahoney, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Service Agreements between Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Martin County for calendar year 2015 for implementation of the Martin County Water Plan Program in the amount of \$23,242 (NRBG - \$13,697 and required County match of \$9,545); and to administer the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) for calendar year 2015 in the amount of \$17,556 (NRBG - \$8,778 and required County match of \$8,778). Carried unanimously.

Rich Perrine, Technician-Water Plan/WCA, presented a brief summary of the 2014 Wetland Conservation Act Report and 2014 Water Plan Report

The Board thanked Rich for his report.

Dan Whitman, Martin County Assessor, was present to request approval to attend the 2015 International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) Annual Conference September 14-16 in Indianapolis, IN. Whitman noted he would attend as the Martin County Assessor and as the President of the Minnesota Association of Assessing Officers (MAAO) representing our state and local area. Whitman went on to note the estimated expenses will be 4 nights in the conference hotel at \$169 per night plus tax plus a few meals. Whitman also noted the MAAO will cover conference registration cost and travel expense to the conference and anticipates the total cost to be under \$1,000.

Motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the out of state travel request for Dan Whitman to attend the 2015 International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) Annual Conference September 14-16, 2015, in Indianapolis, IN; and includes four (4) nights lodging at \$169 per night (plus tax and parking) and five (5) days of meals at up to \$30 per day. Carried unanimously.

Kevin Peyman, Highway Engineer, presented a Highway Department update including Martin County's 2015 Weight Restrictions. Peyman noted restrictions have been on for about a week now and during this period of time any gravel road not otherwise posted has a 5 Ton/axle limit and any paved surface road not otherwise posted remains as a 10 Ton/axle limit. In any case a road is posted with a weight limit sign, the sign governs. Peyman went on to note restrictions typically are on for a period of six to eight weeks based on the State of Minnesota's monitoring of ground temperature and ground moistures. Peyman also noted the Highway Department is busy doing normal spring maintenance work.

Higgins noted the South Central Service Cooperative (SCSC) Regional Wellness Program provides "wellness dollars" to improve the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of all individuals to its members. Higgins went on to note Martin County is again a member of the

SCSC and as a member, the County is expected to be eligible for approximately \$4,360 (\$40 per contract = 109 plus \$116.14 carryover from 2014) in wellness dollars from the SCSC to be used toward a variety of program goals to promote healthier/happier employees.

Motion by Commissioner Mahoney, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, having already established the Martin County Wellness Program, and supports the programming of the Wellness Committee, hereby approve the proposed CY2015 Wellness Budget and to approve and authorize the County Coordinator to sign the required agreements pertaining to the Wellness Program through the South Central Service Cooperative for CY2015; and to authorize County Coordinator to administer the Martin County Wellness/Fitness budget for CY2015. Carried unanimously.

Higgins noted as the Board may be aware, the Faribault/Martin County Transit Board has determined to provide employee benefits to those employees of the F/M County Transit Board and dovetail with the Martin County employee benefits plan to include the following benefit plans: Health, Flex Spending Accounts, Dental, Vision, Life, Long Term Disability, Long Term Care, AFLAC, Colonial Life, Deferred Comp, and Wellness Program. Higgins went on to note the benefits package for F/M County Transit Board employee(s) will be paid for by the Joint Transit Board.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Mahoney, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and allow the employees of the Faribault/Martin County Transit Board (Joint Powers Board) access and dovetail to the existing employee benefits offered to Martin County employees, as allowed by the Providers, including: Health, Flex Spending Accounts, Dental, Vision, Life, Long Term Disability, Long Term Care, AFLAC, Colonial Life, Deferred Comp, and Wellness Program; and that the Faribault/Martin County Transit Board Joint Powers Board are responsible for payment of all premiums and charges associated to the various benefit plans offered to the employees of the Faribault/Martin County Transit Board. Carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed warrants to be paid March 17, 2015.

Motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve bills to be paid on March 17, 2015 as presented; and includes the Martin County Highway Department and Drainage bills as presented. Carried unanimously.

Warrants received and paid March 17, 2015 are registered on file in the Auditor/Treasurer's Office as follows:

Revenue Fund – Warrants Approved March 17, 2015	\$114,361.10
Recreation and Safety Fund	\$ 45.00
Martin Co. Economic Development Authority	\$ 551.66
Solid Waste Management Fund	\$ 26,653.79
Martin County Transit Fund	\$ 69,882.81
County Attorney's Forfeiture	\$ 2,498.67

Bank Building Fund	\$ 2,072.56
Ditch Fund	\$ <u>5.32</u>
Total	\$216,070.91

Road and Bridge Funds Totaled	\$ 46,803.58
Martin County Ditch Funds Totaled	\$ 60,851.14

Commissioners reviewed the 2015 Boy/Girl County Government Day schedule; Area Career Exploration Schedule (April 8, 2015); Monthly Financial Statement for February, 2015; and notification of Pheasants Forever, Inc. Acquired Land in Manyaska & Lake Belt Townships.

Commissioners presented their individual board member reports.

Commissioner Schmidtke noted he attended an Extension Committee meeting on March 10, 2015, and that Chuck and Wanda Patsche were named as Farm Family of the Year; and attended a Prairieland meeting on March 13, 2015.

Commissioner Belgard noted in addition to those already mentioned he attended a Community Healthcare Committee meeting to discuss healthcare provided by Mayo Clinic Health Systems.

Commissioner Flohrs noted he attended AMC's Legislative Conference March 4-5, 2015; attended the Corn Growers Breakfast and Human Services Executive Committee meeting on March 6, 2015; Library Board meeting and attended a number of Township annual elections on May 10, 2015; Department Directors meeting at 8:30 a.m. and meeting with Human Services auditor at 10:30 a.m. on March 11, 2015; Soil and Water Conservation District meeting on March 12, 2015; Odell Windfarm pre-building meeting at the Windom Community Center, and Minnesota Valley Action Council in Mankato on March 16, 2015.

Commissioner Mahoney noted in addition to those already mentioned he attended a Blandin Broadband meeting on March 9, 2015; Martin County Parks/Trail Committee meeting on March 11, 2015; Prairieland meeting on March 13, 2015; and Minnesota Valley Action Council in Mankato on March 16, 2015.

Commissioners reviewed their calendars of upcoming meetings and activities: March 17, 2015 – Personnel Committee meeting, Faribault/Martin County Transit Board meeting, and Agribusiness meeting; March 18, 2015 – Human Services Full Board meeting in Fairmont; March 19, 2015 – Commissioner Flohrs will be meeting with Joel Rabbe regarding the Trimont Center Project; March 23, 2015 – Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition meeting at noon at the Fairmont Jr/Sr High School, and Rural Minnesota Energy Board meeting in Slayton, MN; March 24, 2015 – Commissioner Flohrs will meet with FSA Board; March 25, 2015 – South Central Minnesota Multi County HRA meeting at 5:45 p.m. in North Mankato, and Broadband Steering Committee meeting; March 26, 2015 – South Central Regional Communication Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. and South Central EMS meeting at 1:00 p.m., and Linking Land Use and Water meeting in Fulda, MN; March 31, 2015 – Water Plan Committee meeting; April 1, 2015 – Region 9 Strategic Planning Committee meeting at 5:00 p.m. in Mankato, and Human Services Executive Committee meeting at 9:00 a.m.; April 3, 2015 – Carmen Reckard open house at

Human Resource Building; April 6, 2015 EDA meeting at 5:15 p.m.; and April 7, 2015 – regular Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:00 a.m.

The Board recessed at 9:56 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

At this time the Board, along with County Coordinator, welcomed and presented county government information to the 2015 Boy and Girl County participants. The Board thanked the students and chaperones for their interest and attendance.

With no further business to wit, Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

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Steve Flohrs, Board Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator